

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-07 OIC-02 AF-06

ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-09 TRSE-00 DOTE-00 FAA-00 CAB-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /105 R

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OIC:LGROSSMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PORG, OCON, ETRD, WTO-1

SUBJECT: WTO FIRST ASSEMBLY

1. WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION (WTO) WILL HOLD GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FIRST PLENARY MEETING OF NEW ORGANIZATION, IN MADRID MAY 12-23 WITH PROVISION FOR EXTENDING MEETING THROUGH MAY 30. FORMATION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL WTO BROUGHT ABOUT BY TRANSFORMATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OFFICIAL TRAVEL ORGANIZATIONS (IUOTO). WHILE US HAS NOT DEPOSITED RATIFICATION OF WTO STATUTES, SEPTTEL EXPLAINS STEP TAKEN TO MAKE US ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE AS FULL MEMBER IN FIRST WTO ASSEMBLY AND IDENTIFIES KEY ISSUES OF ORGANIZATIONAL NATURE WHICH WILL CONCERN US AT ASSEMBLY. DECISION ON WHETHER TO FORMALIZE US MEMBERSHIP IN WTO PAST TRANSITIONAL FIRST YEAR WILL TURN LARGELY ON HOW THESE ISSUES ARE RESOLVED BY FIRST ASSEMBLY.

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2. WHILE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES GENERALLY HAVE NOT YET RATIFIED WTO STATUTES AND ARE CIRCUMSPECT ABOUT COURSE FIRST ASSEMBLY MAY TAKE, SPAIN HAS RATIFIED AND MADRID IS STRONG CONTENDER AS CANDIDATE FOR SITE OF PERMANENT WTO

HEADQUARTERS. HOSTSHIP OF FIRST WTO ASSEMBLY REFLECTS THIS ASPIRATION. (STATE 78855 BEING REPEATED MADRID FOR EMBASSY BACKGROUND ON WTO HEADQUARTERS QUESTION.)

3. PROPOSED HEAD OF US DELEGATION TO ASSEMBLY WILL BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR TOURISM LANGHORNE WASHBURN (WHO DOES NOT INTEND TO PARTICIPATE BEYOND OPENING DAYS OF MEETING) AND DELEGATION WILL CONSIST OF OFFICERS FROM DEPARTMENT, MISSION GENEVA AND US TRAVEL SERVICE WHO HAVE DEALT WITH ISSUES WHICH WILL BE BEFORE ASSEMBLY. GIVEN SPECIAL INTEREST IN WTO OF SPAIN, AND ROLE OF GOS AS HOST TO ASSEMBLY (WITH PRESUMPTION SPAIN MAY BE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF ASSEMBLY), DEPARTMENT WISHES TO HAVE EMBASSY OFFICER ON DELEGATION AS ADVISOR AND REQUESTS EMBASSY'S NOMINATION.

4. DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS GOS ASSISTING IN ARRANGING SUITABLE HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DELEGATIONS CONVENIENT TO ASSEMBLY SITE, PALACIO DE CONGRESSOS. REQUEST EMBASSY ARRANGE IN CONSULTATION WITH HOST AUTHORITIES FOR RESERVATIONS FOR FOUR SUITABLY PRICED SINGLES, WITH ONE SMALL MEETING ROOM ATTACHED TO ONE OF THE SINGLES, ALL RESERVATIONS FOR PERIOD OF ASSEMBLY BEGINNING MAY 11. (AS ADDITIONAL USTS OFFICER WILL JOIN DELEGATION AT TIME WHEN WASHBURN DEPARTS, THE FOUR SINGLES WILL BE REQUIRED THROUGHOUT.)

5. ASSISTANT SECRETARY WASHBURN WISHES TO OFFER RECEPTION FOR COUNTERPART HEADS OF DELEGATION ON ONE OF FIRST THREE EVENINGS OF ASSEMBLY, AND HAS WRITTEN AMBASSADOR DIRECTLY ABOUT THIS. REQUEST EMBASSY DISCUSS WITH HOST AUTHORITIES, BLOCK EVENING FOR THIS, AND RECOMMEND BEST ARRANGEMENTS.

6. AS CONTENTIOUS POLITICAL ISSUES MAY ARISE (PRIMARILY INVITATION AND EXPULSION QUESTIONS) WE ANTICIPATE EMBASSY COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT MAY BE REQUIRED. KISSINGER
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